



United States Department of Agriculture

#### Rural Development

71 Corporate Drive, Ste. 200  
Lexington, KY, 40503  
Voice 859.224.7300  
Web: <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/ky>

# News Release

Contact:  
Michael Stepien (859) 224-7306

## USDA Rural Development Celebrates Homeownership Month

**LEXINGTON, Ky.,** June 17, 2016 – Thomas G. Fern, Kentucky State Director for USDA Rural Development, participated in a ribbon cutting ceremony Thursday, June 16, 2016 in Campbellsville to dedicate June as Homeownership Month.

Fern, along with USDA representatives Susan Hughes, Blaine Barnes, and Terry Loper, were able to join new homeowner Tara Fisher to celebrate her new home. Also in attendance was Fisher's grandmother, a previous recipient of a Rural Development loan, which inspired Tara to explore a low interest mortgage for herself.

"This was an opportunity for USDA to partner again with an amazing family and make the dream of homeownership possible for Tara and her son," said Fern. "USDA values this occasion with Tara, and we look forward to helping more Kentucky families with homeownership in the future."

Fisher had been renting a home for 14 years, but after the birth of her son three years ago, she decided she wanted a more stable living environment for him to thrive in a secure community. She spoke with her grandmother, who had also purchased a home over 30 years ago through the USDA Rural Development. This inspired Fisher to take advantage of the opportunities the USDA provides, and she contacted Hughes in the local Rural Development office to discuss options and apply for a home loan.

Because Rural Development offers affordable loan payments with 100% financing and low interest rates for buyers who may not be eligible for a conventional loan, Fisher was able to purchase a newly constructed home through the USDA.

June is recognized each year by the USDA as National Homeownership Month, and the USDA has helped rural residents purchase homes since 1949. USDA, through its Rural Development mission area, has a portfolio of programs designed to improve the economic stability of rural communities, businesses, residents, farmers and ranchers and improve the quality of life in rural America.

-more-

#

*USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. To file a complaint of discrimination, write to:  
USDA, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Ave.,  
SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (866) 632-9992 (Toll-free Customer Service),  
(800) 877-8339 (Local or Federal relay), (866) 377-8642 (Relay voice users).*